

Amendment No. 1 to SB0856

Bailey
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 856*

House Bill No. 976

by deleting subdivision (b)(2) in Section 1 and substituting instead:

(2) "Fire department":

(A) Means a department of a municipality, county, or political subdivision, or an organization, agency, or entity that offers its services, for or without pay, for the purpose of suppressing fires, performing rescue services, or for other emergency response purposes; and

(B) Does not include law enforcement agencies, emergency medical agencies licensed by the Tennessee emergency medical services board, and rescue squads that do not provide fire protection;

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting subdivision (a)(1) in Section 2 and substituting instead:

(1) "Department" means the department of labor and workforce development;

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting subdivision (a)(3) in Section 2 and substituting instead:

(3) "Fire department":

(A) Means a department of a municipality, county, or political subdivision, or an organization, agency, or entity that offers its services, for or without pay, for the purpose of suppressing fires, performing rescue services, or for other emergency response purposes; and

(B) Does not include law enforcement agencies, emergency medical agencies licensed by the Tennessee emergency medical services board, and rescue squads that do not provide fire protection;

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting subsection (d) in Section 2 and substituting instead:

(d) The department shall administer the program pursuant to rules promulgated by the department. The rules must provide for the awarding of grants to employers, or to the workers compensation benefits provider of employers, who apply for a grant and meet the requirements described in subdivision (e)(1), which must be verified by the state fire marshal's office.

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting subsection (e) in Section 2 and substituting instead:

(e)

(1) The department may award an employer a grant if the employer provides mental health awareness training for its personnel, which must include:

(A) Understanding the signs and symptoms of stress, depression, anxiety, psychological trauma, complex trauma, and addiction;

(B) Understanding, navigating, and reducing mental health stigma;

(C) Utilizing appropriate de-escalation strategies; and

(D) Managing stress, using self-care techniques, developing coping skills, and promoting resiliency.

(2) An employer may develop the mental health awareness training described in subdivision (e)(1), or may use a training program developed by another entity that satisfies the criteria set forth in subdivision (e)(1).

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting subsection (f) in Section 2 and substituting instead:

(f) The employer shall grant a firefighter who receives mental health awareness training in accordance with subsection (e) appropriate continuing education credits.

AND FURTHER AMEND by adding the following as new subsections in Section 2:

(g) The department shall annually provide a report, on or before February 1 each year, to the chairs of the state and local government committee of the senate and the local government committee of the house of representatives. The report must include an analysis of the number of claims brought under Section 1, the portion of those claims

that resulted in a settlement or award of benefits, the effect of this section on costs to this state and its political subdivisions, and the balance of funds available for future claims.

(h) This section is repealed December 31, 2028.